

# NATIONAL GUARD HAS DONE ITS DUTY WELL AND EARNED RELIEF

(BY H. S. H.)

THE war department order to demobilize the entire national guard on the Mexican border and send it home to be mustered out is the best news the national guardsmen have heard for many a long day. Realizing soon after their arrival on the border that they were not to see active service, they have been awaiting impatiently ever since, this order home. They came to the border to fight and for no other reason. Not being professional soldiers, they could not remain placidly in training, much as they realized the beneficial results of such training. Nor did they relish the duty. They were willingly under arms to defend their country, but not willingly under arms for three-quarters of a year to perfect themselves in military training.

No one could blame the guardsmen for their attitude. They had answered what they considered a call upon their patriotism. They were ready to fight, untrained as they were, but it was a hard strain on many a guardsman to remain drilling on the border and receive letters that his business was going to ruin for lack of his attention, and on many another to receive word that his wife and children, suffering for food, had been evicted because there was no money to pay the rent.

As an evidence of the spirit of the guard, it is only necessary to say that when the United States broke with Germany and it appeared likely that war might result and the national guard be called into war service, grumbling stopped at once. Officers and men were perfectly content to remain under arms if their country needed them to fight Germany or to fight any foe whatsoever. Personal interests were secondary to the welfare of the country which they stood ready to defend.

The demobilization order makes it appear the war department does not apprehend the necessity for troops in a war with Germany. Either that, or it does not contemplate the danger of war. Otherwise the troops would not be mustered out of the federal service. It would of course be possible to muster out the national guard, allowing officers and men some time, however brief, with their families before again being called to the colors, but it is not likely the government would do such a thing if it were believed the guard might be needed almost immediately.

So the national guard is going home as soon as train equipment can be provided for transportation, and mustering out is expected to follow as soon as possible after the troops reach their demobilization camps. Incidentally, the home folks back north will not be more glad to welcome the return of their guardsmen than will the people of the border states, whose regiments have been with the colors longer than those of the other states.

The war department is right in holding that the regular army troops on the border are sufficient to cope with all ordinary emergencies. It is not sufficient to provide an effective patrol of every mile of the Mexican border. All the regulars and all the national guard would be insufficient for that. But the regulars will be able to furnish protection where most needed. And it is not right to hold the national guard for that service now that it is possible to dispense with them.

The border states appreciate the service the national guard has performed. The moral effect on Mexican bandits of bringing the national guard to the border was great. The outpouring of troops convinced every faction in Mexico that the United States, for the moment, at least, meant business and had enough men under arms to overwhelm Mexico. Raiding stopped at once. It has commenced again within the past few days, but we are indebted to the national guard as well as to the regulars for the fact that raiding was stopped for a considerable time.

And in going home, every militia organization will carry with it the thanks and the best wishes of the border states. We are glad to have known their officers and men, and we should be glad to continue to know them under happier circumstances. It is our hope that they will return, voluntarily, to stay.

El Paso especially desires to have an opportunity to see pass in review once more all the troops on the border. At the time of the gentlemen's convention there will still be some of the national guard remaining here, and these and the regulars who have been on this station for some time might fittingly form an escort of honor for the whole Pershing army.

## Roundabout Town

### How Would You Get Tourists To Stop Off Here? Chamber Of Commerce Is After Practical Ideas

(BY G. A. MARTIN)

THE El Paso chamber of commerce wants to reach people on incoming passenger trains, in an effort to induce them to stop over here. Mayor Lea suggests the erection of big signs at some station where the train stops before reaching El Paso, informing passengers that El Paso is a city of 50,000 people and that every passenger is entitled to a ten day stop-over here.

W. G. Roe suggests the preparation of pamphlets about El Paso and their distribution, if possible, on trains coming into the city, through an arrangement with the railroads. On the Santa Fe going into San Diego, every passenger is given a booklet by the brakeman, telling all about every point of interest in the city.

Mayor Lea says he is tired of having the negro train porters the only source of information about El Paso. "Did you ever ask a porter on a train and hear some passenger ask the porter, 'What sort of a place is El Paso?' and then have the porter answer something after this manner: 'Oh, it's a little burg, 'bout half Mexicans, full o' soldiers'."

Most of us have heard just such a conversation and the board of directors of the chamber of commerce would like to arrive at some solution of the problem of how to inform travelers about the city before they get here, so they can stop over here if they wish.

Jim Marr hasn't anything on me. There was a Martin in that opera company, too. I didn't find out if we were related and, strange to say, he didn't bother about it either.

Iron alloyed with gold is being introduced as a substitute for tin in the making of cans. The resulting product is a good deal more corrosion resistant, but costs 15 times as much as tin plate. It would seem quite appropriate in these days when we are paying high prices for everything that we as well pay a little more for the cans, eh?

Spring is almost here, so we hear no more about the shortage of coal. Now the dealers appear to have enough. The high school grounds should not be allowed to go without trees and shrubbery this spring. Failure to do anything shortly will mean a necessary wait for another year.

There are many vacant lots in the city. Why not secure some of them, remove the tin cans and waste paper and let the school children plant them in flowers and vegetables?

The galley boy says the man who is afraid of room 13 and who makes a cross and spits every time he turns back, does not belong to the chamber of commerce.

Everybody who hasn't a tree or tree should begin planting. Let's make El Paso beautiful and keep it that way. Even if you are a renter, the pleasure you get out of trees will more than repay the cost of planting.

With the arrival of spring, why not "dress up" El Paso? Many houses need new coats of paint. It is wasteful and extravagant to let a house go too long without a new coat of paint. Where one coat might do this year, two will be necessary next year, and much damage in decay can be wrought by the elements between now and then to say nothing of how it looks.

A. Golding says the price of postage stamps is the only thing that has not increased lately, and he thinks the government is not putting as much value on these as it used to, because he can lick half a hundred of them now and still be hungry.

A friend of mine said his family

## Bad Days

THE greatest poets had their days when they wrote punk and painful lays. In vain their lyrics they'd wildly jerk; the old affluents wouldn't work. I often read the stately bards, and they, though loaded to the guards with inspiration, smoking hot, quite frequently would turn out rot. A Shakspeare had his balky times, when it was hard to dig up rhymes. A Milton often walked the floor, and beat his hands against the door, and tried his best to toot his lute, which wouldn't answer, worth a hoot. But when a man is labeled great, this thing will not his fame abate. The worse he writes, the more the crowd will say how rich he's endowed; They'll take his halting, bad-day rhyme, and show just why it is sublime. When Browning had an evil day, he'd often write a crazy lay, that had no sense, and he'd confess that what it meant he couldn't guess. And Browning fans would organize, and try to look profound and wise, and wrestle with each dippy line, and call it noble and divine. Which filled the gifted Bob with mirth, while he was dwelling on this earth.

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WALT MASON.

of veterans of service in Mexico, which ought to be assembled again at least once before the units are dispersed, and ought to be permitted by the military authorities to traverse the downtown streets in compact formation so that our people might formally honor them, together with those who have performed duties equally important if not quite so arduous in the border patrol.

## Avoid Noise Near Hospitals

PHYSICIANS of Santa Fe, New Mexico, have suggested to motorists in that city that it would be an act of kindness to keep the noise of their automobiles at a minimum in passing a sanitarium in that city where, the physicians state, there are several very sick people who are distressed by the honking of cars, the use of cut-outs and the speeding up of machines as they pass.

The same suggestion, if carried into effect, would be much appreciated by patients in El Paso hospitals, where there has been some complaint of the noise of motor cars, the clanging of street car gongs and the roar of passing trucks.

A certain amount of noise cannot be eliminated from traffic and sick people speedily become used to the ordinary noises so that they are little disturbed thereby. It is the unusual noises, breaking in sharply and loudly, which most disturb. The cutting out of mufflers, the raucous racket of motor horns and the violent acceleration of cars as drivers put on speed are hard on the very sick and on those who are just sick enough to be nervous.

In some eastern cities so called zones of quiet have been established by ordinance around hospitals and violations of the ordinance result in fines or imprisonment. We do not need such an ordinance here. All we need do is remember, in passing a hospital, that there are sick people who will be distressed by our unnecessary noises or made grateful by their absence.

## Increasing The Tilled Land

The Estancia News-Herald of New Mexico says it is informed by bankers of that section that farmers are putting considerable amounts of their surplus money into land by buying property adjoining or near their farms with the idea of cultivating more land than before, raising more crops and making more money. That is the good old way in which farmers have become large land holders and piled up large bank accounts.

It is said \$30,000 or \$40,000 has been transferred in this way at Estancia recently, most of it leaving the local banks for the reason that the land was purchased largely from non-residents. Presumably the banks are not exactly happy over the loss of deposits, though the News-Herald does not quote them in that connection.

The loss is merely temporary, however, if the banks care to regard it in that light. Untilled land held by non-residents is about as worthless as anything in the world. Far better to transfer it into the hands of local farmers who will cultivate it and make it worth money. The new dollars which will come out of that land will soon far exceed \$30,000 or \$40,000. It will prove a profitable investment for all concerned. It is sufficient reason for thanking whenever tracts of new land are brought under the plow.

All of us feel badly about the attempted starvation of German and Austro-Hungarian women and children—as badly as we feel about the starvation of Belgian, Polish, and Serbian women and children.

Some of the national guardsmen are saying they came, saw, and conquered their desire to remain. But a good many will remain, just the same.

The tailors suggest a man might button his trousers to his waist; but on what should he put his trust in the summer time?

## Abe Martin



Troubles should be smothered and not aired. You get too much service and not enough merchandise for your money these days.

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new law requiring numbers on the front of automobiles, only in a passive way. For instance, No. 6025 has a front number in blue painted by hand on a black piece of tin, making it almost impossible to read it. Car No. 2990 has a very small number so very low down in front, beneath the starting crank, that it is very difficult to read it. These are just two numbers I noticed and made note of in a block Saturday. Many are using numbers far too small. I saw a delivery wagon the other day with a number bearing four figures, two of which were painted with a brush, while two were nickel plated, but of different sizes.

## A Word From Private Atkins ON THE SUBJECT OF S.D.

"On week days when it's pleasant we're drillin' all day long, and learnin' all about th' art of war. If you tell 'em you are sick and tired they'll tell you you are wrong, and drill y'u 'til your legs and feet are sore. Th' doctors they're as merciful as Pancho Villa's band, and sick call isn't nothin' but a fake. They say intensive trainin' is something very grand; it'll make a soldier out of any Jake.

"And all th' time we're sufferin' 'we're thinkin' home. I'll be there when Sunday comes and brings a short vacation. We dream of havin' lots of sport, our hearts are filled with joy, but one thing didn't strike our calculation.

"There's sand upon th' ocean beach, there's sand upon th' desert but on Sundays there is sand where ever y'u look. It blows through camps as if it were ashamed to stop and linger, but y'u find it in your bed and in your soup. A tent is like a sieve for sand, there's nothing quiet and simply and as of evitably as the law of the flowers claims its toll after the golden primrose has lived its little joyous day in the sun.

There was realism in the opera; indeed the stage director might have spared us the lifting, however reverent, of the weary limbs of the soldiers at the end, and might have let us believe they still shone blue and clear in all their innocence as they did when Mimi, so slender and modest, naively asked in her budding youth but already beginning to weaken under the weight of a love affair, why she was so tired.

Peace without victory! How the president must have enjoyed all the tie games the old Princeton eleven played!—Syracuse Post-Standard.

Constantine ought to take good care of his ultimatum. He has probably the most extensive stock in the world.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

Maybe the reason count Bernstorff failed to communicate with his government was because he didn't feel like talking.—Washington News.

Bryan is peeved because military officers are lionized in Washington while nobody pays much attention to the heroes of peace-at-any-price.—Indianapolis Star.

A Cincinnati judge has ordered a man to obey his wife for a year. Wouldn't the average man be just "tickled to death" to have his sentence commuted to one year?—New York Telegraph.

The state is nothing, no doubt, that Texas is sending their boys back healthy and strong. The sojourn in Texas has added an average of ten years to the life of the national guardsman.—Houston Post.

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## Remarkable Season Of Grand Opera Is Reviewed

What This Tour Means To El Paso and the West

Following "Tosca," Adequately Rendered, The Boston National Grand Opera Company Presents "La Boheme" and "Iris."—A Great Company In Every Respect, It Sets The Standard.—Human Emotions and Passions Sincerely Interpreted By Finished Artists Under Masterly Management.

BY H. D. S.

TO THE several hundred men and women whose eyes were rendered too dim to be of much use during the final moments of poor little Mimi's life, it will be welcome news that she was restored to life after all, probably by Rodolfo's medicine, and that her sparkling wit and dainty charm assisted much to entertain a considerable company of El Paso music lovers after the opera Saturday night until a stern and malicious trainmaster insisted on following out some hateful railroad schedule that fell due at 2 a. m. and whisked the whole company off to Los Angeles.

Graciously, gently, gracefully, and graciously, Mimi's life is good to look at, and her sweet and expressive voice in keeping with her personality, so well adapted to the part of the embroiderer of the Paris attic, who El Pasoans completely.

"La Boheme" is a masterpiece of dramatic and musical interpretation, a skillful weaving of human emotion and musical interpretation. The story is rather a succession of episodes than a fabric, brings out scenes in the life of a little group of artists and their friends, beginning with joy and ending with joy in this world, is intensified even while being rendered poignant by a sense of the hovering shadows, the course of these little lives of men and women has its storm and its bright sun, but never anything like calm.

"La Boheme" is generally regarded as the work of Puccini at his best. "Madam Butterfly" is a masterpiece of dramatic and psychological appeal is far deeper. The composer has written with a simple and direct style, and the various character parts are made a musical setting for the action. It is music that should never be disconnected from the action, never merely to refresh one's memory, and add one to strengthen the lines of the picture seen in the mirror of recollection.

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remarked when the lights went on, all this in the name of "amusement." After all, the life of every day, the life right around us, is as full of frightful and amazing consequences as this "La Boheme" is a trifle concentrated, that is all.

The second scene of the opera was merry with action and life and color. It offered an opportunity to see Mimi's Mabel Bickelmann, who was made the most of. Miss Bickelmann has a delightfully arch manner, and in Marcello's dramatic sense, she is a pretty, pitiful and artless abandon that is the very proof of art.

The chorus was superb, and all else in the opera was perfect. The music was so many individual excellencies, there were as to make the ensemble one of perfect harmony. Miss Bickelmann has a lovely voice and an excellent dramatic sense; she is a perfect artist, and her performance is a masterpiece of dramatic and musical interpretation.

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